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IRONSIDE BUTT CLAIM

NEWCASTLE star Robbie Ironside is at the centre of a club inquiry after allegedly head butting one of his own team-mates in last week's Ericsson Cup clash with Canberra Cosmos.

The incident is said to have occurred at the conclusion of the match.

"I couldn't believe it," said an onlooker at the match which finished in a 2-2 draw after the Cosmos grabbed a dying seconds equaliser.

"The players were coming off the field, shaking hands and so on.

"It had been a good game and maybe a draw was a fair result although the Breakers had the chance to wrap up the three points.

"But Ironside and Troy Halpin were having a heated argument and then it appeared as if Ironside head butted Halpin."

Players from both sides have confirmed that Halpin suffered a gashed head in the incident.

One player, who shall not be named, said: "His (Halpin's) head

was spouting like a fountain.

"There was blood everywhere.

"We were staggered by what happened."

And Newcastle media officer Shane Johnstone has confirmed that his club is investigating the alleged incident.

"I didn't see it personally," he told *Inside Soccer*, "but it has been brought to our attention by media claims that it did occur.

"The Breakers are certainly looking at this and I can confirm that both players required attention after the match."

This season saw Newcastle side start in brilliant form with a 6-1 thrashing of West Adelaide in Round 1 and generally their form has been good enough to suggest that coach John Kosmina has a competitive squad.

Johnstone has also confirmed that morale in the team is exceptionally high.

"I was away with them for four days two weeks ago," he said.

"The atmosphere amongst the players

was fantastic, it was really great."

And recently Newcastle secured a major sponsorship with South American sports good manufacturers, Topper which also involves naming rights.

But the Breakers are under a new cloud with possible club charges brought against their former New Zealand international.

There is also the likelihood of a Soccer Australia disrepute charge being laid against Ironside should the allegations prove correct.

Ironside transferred to the Breakers at the beginning of the season after sitting on the sidelines for much of last term with his former club, UTS Olympic.

Reports that Halpin required seven stitches to the gaping head wound have not been confirmed by the club.

ROBBIE IRONSIDE: he faces a possible ban and hefty fine if head butting allegations are proven.



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UTS OLYMPIC defender Scott Baillie takes time out to share a laugh with a young fan

OFC boss slams Hill

OCEANIA President Charlie Dempsey has thrown his hat into the ring with a response to the recent criticisms of the new FIFA confederation made by ASF Chairman, David Hill.

"Our countries think he is destructive and harmful," said Dempsey in a strongly worded attack on Hill.

"They think he has nothing positive to offer the South Pacific football family."

Australia has a long-

standing background of trying to leave the confederation it helped to form in the mid 60s, with a seemingly impossible place in Asia the ultimate goal.

Dempsey's attack follows the news that David Hill had been suspended from OFC - a decision which Soccer Australia has called unconstitutional.

Dempsey also referred to Hill's failure to prevent Oceania from gaining confederation status

last year when his motion was voted against or abstained from by every country in the world - except Australia.

There is little doubt that Australia has failed to treat its membership of Oceania seriously, and has offered only token assistance to the confederation's developing countries.

Incredibly, the ASF will pocket nearly \$600,000 as entry into the Confederations Cup next year - the result of

beating New Zealand and Tahiti in a format devised and pushed by Dempsey.

But Dempsey's public attack on Hill is unlikely to gain any great amount of public support in Australia.

Dempsey has hit back at a statement by SocOz commissioner Basil Scarsella who has claimed that Hill's expulsion from OFC was unconstitutional.

Scarsella has said: "That Soccer Australia, as an Oceania Executive Committee member, should have been included in the phone poll (which suspended Hill).

"Furthermore, we'll ask for minutes of that phone conference and an indication that the meeting was properly constituted with due notice.

"If not, its action would be null and void."

The hard-hitting Oceania boss has countered by launching a further attack on the



Charlie Dempsey: calling David Hill a liar

credibility of the ASF.

"For obvious reasons he (Hill) did not attend the last meeting (of the Oceania Executive) held on 20th October when the motion on the agenda paper, supported by the nine other member countries, calling from his suspension from the Executive and that he be replaced by another

representative from Soccer Australia.

"Even before that meeting was held, Hill was stating in the Sydney Morning Herald that he had successfully had the motion withdrawn.

"This was absolutely not true.

"Hill, however, has never been constrained by facts.

"His humiliation (at the FIFA congress) is a matter of record.

"The Oceania countries are discussing possible courses of action against Hill's destructive and dirty tactics.

"His statement in the Australian press that competition in Oceania is a joke is offensive."

The battle continues.

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Race gets hot

THE race for the vacant Australian national coaching job is starting to hot up.

Recent news that Terry Venables has been approached lends further credibility to the source information that former Coventry City boss Ron Atkinson is also in the frame.

Atkinson is said to have been approached by former Liverpool Aussie Craig Johnston acting on instructions from Soccer Australia.

Johnston is also said to have made contact with Kenny Dalglish, Jack Charlton and other prominent football figures in Britain.

The news of the Venables tap, which is circulating freely in the British press and has been featured on the BBC, has raised Australian soccer stocks to an all time high.

And another shock candidate is former Barcelona boss, Johann Cruyff.

Cruyff has the deserved reputation of being one of the greatest players of the modern era and has had an outstanding career as a club coach.

Meanwhile, SocOz boss David Hill has intimated that a decision on the position will be made by the end of

the month.

A recent telephone poll on SBS has drawn heavy criticism because it featured only two Australian-based club coaches.

Inferences are being made that the leading soccer station is pushing the claims of its own favourites, a charge which SBS will be sure to hotly deny.

Amazingly one leading SBS commentator had a recent shot at *Inside Soccer's* story on the possibility of Ron Atkinson's appointment.

Atkinson was approached on the instigation of a SocOz commissioner and has expressed interest in the post.

Because of recent developments his interview on the subject, due to appear in this issue of Australia's top soccer publication, has been held over.

The SBS commentator, who doubted the authenticity of the story, added: "We can all have a good laugh at the story in SBS."

The station's lack of knowledge of the biggest story in Australian soccer is surely further evidence of the continuing decline of the credibility of what

was once regarded as a top rated soccer broadcast station.

It adds to the further embarrassment of SBS which, amongst other gaffs, profiled an 'exclusive' interview with Jimmy Patikas and stated that he was being transferred to Perth Glory - only to read in *Inside Soccer* days later that he was on his way to Olympic, a move which had been in the offing for some weeks beforehand.

It seems that both SBS and the Australian soccer public will be laughing again shortly - with the likelihood that a top-rated overseas coach is appointed to the hottest job in the local game.

Bruce Campbell

The latest odds;

4/1	Ron Atkinson
6/1	Terry Venables
8/1	Rave Ratcliffe
10/1	Raul Blanco
12/1	Johann Cruyff
	Kenny Dalglish
	Graeme Souness
16/1	Zoran Matic
18/1	Mike Lyons
20/1	Les Scheinflug
28/1	Frank Farina
30/1	Branko Culina
50/1	Manfred Schaefer
100/1	Frank Arok
200/1	Rale Rasic

THE BOY CAN PLAY A BIT

CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

DOWN Canberra way Lachlan Armstrong is looking to re-capture the fame of his father, Jimmy - a former Socceroo.

Now the former Dundee FC professional, who lists amongst his memories an appearance at Parkhead in front of 40,000, is making his mark with the Canberra Cosmos, after impressing coach Mike Lyons during a stint in Brunei. That's enough to please the local female talent as well - with Lachie a big hit with the girl supporters of the Cosmos.



Hard
Xtra

Confirmed dates

THE confirmed dates for the January Four Nations Cup to be held in Australia are:

Saturday 18 January, Melbourne
Wednesday 22 January, Brisbane
Saturday 25 January, Sydney

The nations taking part with Australia in the double-header series are Norway, South Korea and New Zealand.

South Korea is a possible opponent for the winner of the Oceania stage of the World Cup qualifying marathon, giving added interest to the tournament which is set to become an annual fixture on the Australian soccer calendar.

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AT THE BACK POST

with Bruce Campbell



BRING ON THE KIWIS

AT LAST we are starting to get regular competition with our Trans Tasman rivals.

The recent announcement that January's international tournament will include New Zealand is very welcome.

It seems that the ASF have had a reluctance to play the Kiwis in the past - and it isn't just the present power brokers that statement applies to.

The reason?

Not enough gate takings to justify playing them.

Rubbish.

Absolute drivel.

Last season the game at Newcastle was watched by a packed house, ample proof that

if the venue is right then the interest will be high.

Ditto the recent Tahiti match at Bruce Stadium.

I thought that the crowd figure in Canberra for the Oceania Cup was inflated by a few thousand or so, but

nevertheless it was a great turnout for a game

which in Sydney would have struggled to draw three thousand and in Melbourne under two would have been the mark.

The lesson?

That's obvious - give the so-called 'lesser'

games to the regional centres.

I am sure that Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Brisbane, Morwell, Adelaide and Perth will continue to show their appreciation.

In the meantime, bring on the Kiwis.

Unseemly

THE public brawl (verbal, that is) between David Hill and Charlie Dempsey is unseemly, if not a downright disgrace.

I am sick to the back teeth of having soccer polis telling me that we should keep the game's dirty linen off the front pages of *Inside Soccer*.

At the risk of trying to teach people how to suck eggs, we don't MAKE the news, we only PRINT it - and as long as the two highest profile officials in Oceania are using the pages of the press to slag each other off then we will continue to print it.

The stark truth is that, whatever the relative merits of Canberra as a host venue, it is extremely hard, if not downright impolite, to slag someone you are breaking bread with.

At least that's how the majority of the media see it. I don't know if soccer administrators quite have the same ethics and I know a bunch who don't - but that, as they say, is another story.

It is, however, nice to see that the boys from the capital are finally starting to grow up.

The initiative, led by ACTSF President Steve Dospot (a man who, incidentally, I am on record as not being a supporter of) was superb.

I am sure that it has hit the mark - the pie was very nice!

Breaking bread

LAST WEEK I had the pleasure of attending a luncheon hosted by the ACT Soccer Federation.

Nothing unusual in that, you might say - except that it represents one of the most dramatic turnarounds in recent soccer history in Canberra.

Just three seasons ago I had my press 'privileges' withheld by the ACTSF for asking that an urn of tea be

placed in the press box at National Youth League games!

Last season's big shock was being asked to host a Canberra Cosmos radio show by the ACTSF, this one's has me very pleasantly surprised.

Under a new administration the ACTSF has finally acknowledged what I having been raving about for seasons now - that one of the main

ingredients of any marketing push is the press.

So when I took my place alongside the guys from other mainstream sports TV, radio and print it looked like the message is at last getting across.

Naturally the ACTSF hopes to influence the media in assisting their bid for Olympic soccer - and for the general well-being of the game in Canberra.

OCTOBER AWARDS

Bouquets for last month go to;

- * Charlie Dempsey (Oceania) for the Oceania Cup concept
- * John Koch (Canberra Cosmos) the Ericsson Cup's unsung hero
- * Jason Bennett (Newcastle) for his marvellous four goal haul
- * Frank Farina (pictured) for his successful start in coaching at Brisbane
- * The board of UTS Olympic for their foresight and vision in connection with the club's move to Belmore
- * Perth and Collingwood for their outstanding entries to the NSL
- * David Hill for bringing them into the competition
- And the 'Gumby of the Month' goes to;
- * The ASF's media section for its inability to distribute press releases, details of international soccer, invitations to press conferences etc. etc.

The news of my death ...

IT SEEMS that the editor of another soccer paper was concerned at rumours that *Inside Soccer* had gone out of print I wonder where they started, Marrickville maybe?

Nice try fellas, but you're a bit far off the truth.

Maybe the market place can't sustain the six soccer publications which are currently produced in Australia but can there be any doubt that at \$2 (\$2.95 in NZ) *Inside Soccer* is the best value. It is also the best read - and THAT is official, unlike the news of my death

COLLECTORS' ITEMS

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Refenes fights back with determination

WITH so many Aussies abroad, we can probably expect to see many of these players returning in the future to finish their careers in Australia.

For some, however, playing abroad never really reached the heights one would have expected. Steve Refenes is one of those Aussies returning to the club where he made his name.

Blessed with exceptional stamina and pace, Refenes was one of the most exciting prospects at the Barcelona Olympics and a crowd pleaser at Sydney Olympic during the early 1990s.

His exciting runs down the left flank always delighted the crowd and caused headaches for opposition defences.

Since leaving Sydney after the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 Refenes signed for Olympiakos of Greece and later Panionios before returning to Australia earlier this year.

Still only 26, he has had a horrible run of injuries which has basically seen the young speedster reeling from surgery to

rehabilitation, ruining his chances of a successful European career.

"Although I played first team football at Olympiakos in season 1992/93 I wasn't a regular first team player," he said.

"In the next season I was loaned to Panionios where I played regularly and began to settle in to a professional career.

"In 1994/95 I was back at Olympiakos where my cruciate ligament snapped.

"Then I underwent a total knee reconstruction and rehabilitation which basically meant the season was over for me.

"By the time I was ready to play, Olympiakos was making major personnel changes and I was transferred to Elefsina.

"My knee lasted two and a half months before I damaged it again, this time requiring a cartilage operation.

"Things obviously weren't working for me in Greece so I decided to move back to Australia and pick up the pieces."

Unfortunately his

wretched luck with injury continued after he signed with David Ratcliffe at Olympic.

His knee became infected and needed further surgery during the Ericsson Cup pre-season.

"The doctors are saying that I can begin training in about one month, but match

fitness is going to be the most difficult thing since I haven't played for the last nineteen months."

This is a make or break year for Refenes and he knows that his soccer career could depend on his determination to recover from these enormous set-backs.

If popularity is any guide, however, Steve Refenes will be playing again for Olympic.

"Steve's a genuinely nice guy," says Olympic coach Dave Ratcliffe, "and it's a tragedy that he wasn't able to pay to his potential because of injury. He knows that he has to work hard and

get into the squad but he's a natural athlete and his physical fitness is still excellent.

"What he needs is games."

Many players have had to fight injuries and returned to top level competition.

Names like Gascoigne and even closer to home, Zelic,

have all had to overcome the set-back of injury before continuing their careers.

Steve Refenes may well be another in that mould if his determination to pull on an Olympic shirt is any guide.

George Bramis



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Zdrilic eyes goals as United chase Ecka Cup

SYDNEY United striker David Zdrilic probably has to rub his eyes when he sees his name on top of the Ericsson Cup goal-scoring charts so early in the season.

The 22 year-old law student has already bagged five goals in four games and when one considers that he managed ten throughout the whole of last season, then his astonishment is appreciated.

"I'm doing the same as what I was doing last season," he says.

"But instead of hitting the post or missing the

target by a matter of inches, luck has been on my side and the goals are coming."

Zdrilic's strength is his ability to get into goal-

even more impressive. The goal he scored in United's 3-0 demolition job on Marconi was pure class.

With little room to

game. The smile on his face said it all and the fact that it was a match against United's arch-rivals on enemy soil

Zdrilic never rates a mention when representative teams are discussed and his highest honours to date have been with New South Wales on separate tours to Hong Kong and China, and South Korea.

"At Sydney United I've played alongside plenty of internationals such as Tony Popovic and Zeljko Kalac but I've never been recognised at the highest level, so playing for New South Wales was a bit of a taste for me," he says.

Zdrilic performed well for the state team

"I thought that being overlooked for national selection was a case of someone thinking that I wasn't good enough"

scoring positions; that sixth sense that every good striker must possess in order to be successful.

But while Zdrilic's rate of scoring has been the focus of everyone's attention, the quality of his finishing has been

manoeuvre and under pressure from keeper Bob Catlin and defender Dominic Longo, Zdrilic looked up, picked his spot and clinically placed the ball between his two opponents for the opening goal of the

wasn't lost on the young striker.

"Local derbies against Marconi are always special and to score on their ground in front of a big crowd was very satisfying," he beamed.

Funnily enough,

to Croatia so I'll have to do them this year.

"It can get pretty hectic but I'm coping and I know that one day it's all going to pay off for me."

While David Zdrilic's name in soccer circles continues to get bigger, the opportunities for that to pay off will be immense once he qualifies as a fully-fledged lawyer.

"I intend on using my name in soccer to assist me in establishing a client base when the time arises," he says, looking ahead to a bright future.

But for now, David Zdrilic's immediate future lies with the job of scoring goals for his beloved Sydney United.

"I'm confident we have the talent to win the championship," he says.

"We seem to be more mature and with the addition of players such as Kresimir Marusic

and the return of Tony Popovic and Zeljko Kalac, we've probably got our best chance ever."

"I've been studying law for about two and a half years now and unfortunately I missed sitting my exams last year because of our (Sydney United's) trip

Derek Royal

Juric happy with fair deal

ONE OF the shock moves of the pre-season was that of Frank Juric to Collingwood Warriors.

The Socceroo keeper looked a certainty to stay with the Croatian-backed Melbourne Knights before moving overseas but contractual problems made that move a certainty.

"The Knights wanted to sign me on a long-term contract and I was only willing to sign a one year deal," said Juric of his cross-town move.

"That was the only major problem, really.

"I've signed a one year deal with the Warriors and then I'll be looking to go



overseas.

"At this stage I'm not too sure where but I'm hopeful of making a move overseas."

That will fuel the speculation that Juric is set to join the J League with scouts from at least two Japanese clubs already having close looks at the big keeper last season.

Other than Japan, Juric's best bet for full time football would lie in Croatia, especially with former team-mate Mark Viduka being such a big hit.

Juric's move to rivals Collingwood Warriors

has made him a target for abuse from the Melbourne Knights fans, something which he is taking in his stride.

"When we played against the Knights the fans didn't really seem to like the idea of me playing for another club," he admitted.

"I suppose that most of them think I went for the money – but that wasn't the reason."

"It was simply the one year contract that the Knights weren't offering me."

Now Juric is at the

heart of the Warriors

last line having

Interview by
Mike Komadina

in the **NEXT ISSUE** of
inside
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* The Socceroo coach race heats up
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Sonny Fires

ONE OF the big success stories down at Brandon Park this season is former Gippsland Falcon, Sonny Sevin.

The player who was rescued from oblivion by Bobby McLachlan has been a huge hit with Wolves fans already.

And the resurgence of Michael Reda, a former team-mate of Sevin's at Falcons park, is another success story for the NSW South Coast club.

Sevin was out of the game for several years after being suspended for supplying a false birth date as a junior.

But McLachlan kept tabs on him and when the time came knocked on his door with the offer of a NSL contract.

"I was stunned," Sevin said shortly after McLachlan brought him back into the game.

"I trained with the Falcons for six months before my suspension ended and then everything has happened since then."

Matt Green

Tapai walking back to glory

ERNIE Tapai might just get a special award at the end of this season; as the biggest comeback of the decade.

It seemed that his career had hit the skids after an unsuccessful attempt to break into European football - but now he is back, bigger and better.

And the winners are the Australian footballing public as the diminutive midfielder with the high work rate is wowing fans at new-guys Collingwood.

Already Tapai, who has also won his way back into the Australian national team's starting line-up, has one medal on the trophy shelf -

even if his club doesn't. "We didn't even have a trophy cabinet when we won the Johnnie Walker Cup," he said.

That result was the result of a lot of hard work.

"We put a lot of hard work into our pre-season," he says.

"We worked hard at getting settled."

"I enjoy playing that Adelaide City style and it has something which has obviously proved successful in the past for our coach, Zoran Matic.

"The Johnnie Walker Cup was the club's chance to test players but we're keeping our heads firmly on our shoulders."

"This season for us

will be a long and hard one and we haven't got carried away by our early success.

"Collingwood Warriors have got a fantastic support - the fans are very vocal."

"We've got Aussie Rules fans here as well as soccer fans and that is encouraging, it's fantastic."

And for Tapai his own reward has been that recall to the Socceroos.

From there he has done the rest, putting in a string of top class performances for both club and country.

"I'm glad to be back in the team," he said after the match with Tahiti.

"Hopefully I can continue to play well."



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IT SEEMS that *Inside Soccer* has picked up a reputation for controversy.

I suppose that is the by-product of bringing the sort of news that other publications are just too scared to print.

How many times have people involved in the game said to you: 'Of course, I couldn't say that publicly,' in defence of some shilly shallying.

But just who is controversial, those or us?

It is a source of pride to be involved with a publication which doesn't shirk the big story because it will upset someone.

We have also been tagged as baggers of FIFA. So maybe it is time to quantify that, and then ask a few questions also.

Inside Soccer has, does and always will bag second rate administrators.

It never will, and never has, bag second

rate players.

Dual standards maybe but the simple fact of life is that no player asks for a game, he just trains his backside off and then hopes that he'll be picked. If he isn't up to standard then that isn't his fault.

That isn't the same for the army of impostors involved in the behind the scenes running of the game.

Maybe that is why we

are also hard on SocOz. They have the responsibility of getting the game's administration on an even keel - but all too many of the current officials, unlike those of just a few seasons ago, are handsomely over-paid for their meagre efforts.

Are they above criticism?

FIFA is responsible for the world-wide implementation of policy.

But some decisions to emanate from Zurich are reminiscent of the Smurfs of cartoon fame - hence the nicknames applied by the Editor of this paper.

FIFA does some marvellous work and its media section, in particular, is absolutely top class. But what about the clot who called of the Estonia-Scotland World Cup tie?

Anyone with an inkling of how this top heavy organisation operates would have

known that FIFA would order the tie replayed.

But surely when a major blunder occurs someone must carry the can?

I await with baited (but not held) breath for the news of the culprits sacking.

OK, so the questions - and the incisive journalism for which I am so richly paid

Has the world governing body lost



FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter: Brilliant administrator or Smurf?

reality?

Is the World Cup too big?

Is the Confederations Cup another competition too many in an already packed calendar?

Is world soccer too political?

My own feeling is that the World Cup needs to be re-shaken.

It is too big but yet not big enough.

With 180 countries clamouring for a place

even 32 finalists isn't enough.

Yet at the same time a final event with 32 teams is just far too cumbersome to be successful.

It, by its size, also restricts the amount of nations which could now host the event to a handful.

Are we likely to see the same sort of thing as has happened with the Olympics whereby the Yanks have an almost

mortgage on the event?

Could you honestly see Australia ever being able to stage the World Cup in its current format?

Well, the real good news in this issue is that my Reader's Letters page is to make a come-back.

Please, at your own risk, send me your thoughts on the above or any other aspects of this great game.

State League changes

THE NSW SOCCER Federation has announced further changes to its format for next season - a response to the wishes of its member clubs.

"We had planned to have three top divisions with twelve clubs in each," said Soccer NSW

President Peter Gray (pictured), "but after interviewing the clubs we have increased the First Division to 16.

"That will be reduced to 14 clubs in 1998 and then in 1999 both the First and Second Divisions will comprise twelve teams each."

Gray was confident that Soccer NSW is still well on target to cement its position as Australia's leading soccer State.

"Even although Warringah Dolphins has been relegated they can still come back into Super League," he added.

"But they have got problems off the park and they need to be resolved first."

"If they can do that then we would welcome them back into the top division with open arms - and they don't even have to win the First Division to be successful."

Ryde City had been widely tipped to move up to fill the void caused by Warringah's demotion but now the north shore of Sydney will not be represented by a senior club in the premier league.

Gray has also revealed plans to launch the season with a round robin similar to the old Ampol Cup, for so long the start of the Sydney soccer season.

"That will probably happen in the second week in February," he added. "It is likely to consist of three groups of four teams from the Super League."

Next season the three top divisions in New South Wales will battle out for prize money totalling \$110,000.

Super League

Adamstown Rosebud, Bankstown City Lions, Blacktown City, Bonnyrigg, Canterbury Marrickville, Central Coast, Leichhardt Tigers, Macarthur Rams, Parramatta Eagles, St George, Sutherland, Sydney United.

First Division

Auburn United, Bathurst '75, Belmore Hercules, Fairfield Bulls, Greystanes, Hills United, Illawarra Lions, Mount Pritchard, Penrith Panthers, Rockdale City, Sydney City, Southern Minotaurs, Stanmore Hawks, Sydney Cosmos, Warringah Dolphins, West Wanderers.

Second Division

Alexandra Warriors, AC United, Concord Juniors, Dulwich Hill, Gladesville United, Hurstville, Liverpool City, Moorebank Sports, Mt Druitt Town, Parramatta City, Sydney Districts, University of NSW.

Major Melbourne Move

IN RESPONSE to continued requests from Melbourne readers of *Inside Soccer Australia*'s top soccer publication has made a substantial increase to its Victorian distribution.

If any Victorian reader is unable to obtain a copy please contact either our distributor or editorial office (details on page 2).

Playing the waiting game

"We're still trying to sort out problems with his visa," said a Marconi official when asked about the status of Mike Smith, the Sydney side's star left side utility.

Since Smith broke his leg against Melbourne Knights last season the millionaires of Aussie soccer have looked like a pale imitation of their true selves.

Consecutive failures

in the Grand Final and Johnnie Walker Cup final have led to a clamour by supporters for the return of the classy Scot who has kept fit by training with a Scottish First Division side.

"It looked like he might be signed by Raith Rovers," said a friend of the star player.

"But with the changes in management there that didn't happen.

"He's been waiting to get his visa situation sorted out so he can get back to Marconi."

Successive positional changes at Marconi to accommodate for Smith's absence have been unsuccessful with the result that at times they have looked imbalanced.

Now a poor run at the start of this season is leading the clamour for Smith's return.



Ever what goes on behind the scenes at your favourite club? Here photographer WILHELMINA KEMPERMAN takes a back stage peek at the CANBERRA COSMOS on match day.



ABOVE: 'COSMO' has become a big hit with the kids - so much so that he has finally helped to transformed the crowd's chant from CAN-BERRA to COS-MOS. The 'making' of Cosmo involved a mini army of production and ideas. Now he is one of the best mascots in the league.

LEFT: and the fabulous Canberra Comettes supplied by the LEGS DANCE STUDIO. The girls are popular with their pre-match routines and have helped to add glamour to match days at Bruce Stadium.

PHOTOGRAPHS & INTERVIEW by Wilhelmina Kemperman

AND THE MAN behind the mike is ... Martin Grosse.

How long have you been associated with your current station, Radio Triple SSS?

Since February 1992.

How did you begin your career there?

I was employed as their programme co-ordinator.

When did you first start broadcasting on that station?

Within a couple of months of joining Triple SSS. I wasn't employed for an 'on-air' position but I filled in whenever required.

What other stations have you worked on?

2NCR in Lismore and also 3MFM in Gippsland - both before joining Radio Triple SSS.

How old were you when you first had an interest in obtaining information about sport?

My father was a NSW rugby union administrator so sport has been a family thing.

What types of papers and magazines do you read to get your information?

Any sports magazines - I have subscriptions to quite a few but I read any paper about sport. And *Inside Soccer*, of course!

How do you get the news for your morning sports programmes?

Australian Associated Press supplies information, plus faxes and daily newspapers.

How does a typical week-day morning start for you?

I wake up too early, fall asleep again, then get to work about 5.00am. I then access AAP, read papers and sort faxes. I go to air at 6.30am and complete my 'on-air' shift by nine. Then I prepare the show for the next day, which usually takes 'till about mid-day. My afternoons are taken up doing media sales for Triple SSS, or carrying out my responsibilities that I have with the Canberra Cosmos as the stadium announcer at Bruce Stadium on home match days.



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One on One

michael curcija

NAME: Michael Curcija

DATE & COUNTRY OF BIRTH: 27 July 1977

Australia

OCCUPATION: currently studying Commerce at University

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Heidelberg United, AIS

CURRENT CLUB: South Melbourne Lakers

POSITION: Striker

WHO SPOTTED ME: Frank Arok

NSL DEBUT: Dockerty Cup semi final against Morwell Falcons

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Playing with the AIS team in Argentina in front of 25,000 people

BEST GOAL: Against the Melbourne Knights in a 1-1 draw.

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Con Blatsis

STRENGTHS OF MY GAME: Strength and goal scoring ability.

WEAKNESSES: Defensive duties

AMBITIONS: To play in the World Youth Championships in Malaysia next year and then to play professionally in Europe in the future.

HOBBIES: Playing golf and going out.

FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Pastas, fish, orange juice

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Ferris Bueller's Day Off

FAVOURITE MUSIC: House, Nirvana, Pearl Jam.

BEST LOCAL NIGHT CLUB: Chasers

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Robbie Fowler and Alan Shearer.

PERSON I WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: Diego Maradona

by Melina Boursinos

Brian Smith

soccer
with a
kick



SOUTH MELBOURNE have the biggest squad in the National League and have openly stated that they will stand by coach ANGIE POSTECOGLIO'S huge squad of 24 players.

South, as everybody knows, is a big club and well supported by some of the best supporters in the land.

The only thing wrong with being part of the current South Melbourne set-up is that results are everything and second best is not good enough.

Hopefully South will stand by Postecoglou but if things don't go well expect SIR ALAN DAVIDSON to step in and coach one of the most powerful clubs in Australia.

Davidson, rated by some as the best player to have played in Australia, is sure to coach Australia one day and a stint at South couldn't do him any harm - before his climb to the biggest job in Australian soccer.

PAUL WADE'S soccer career may be over but for the former Socceroo captain and the most capped player in Australian soccer history the path ahead will bring him more rewards, fame and money.

Wade, to me, was a very average player and can count himself lucky to have gained so many caps and I for one thought he should have retired a lot sooner.

His decision to retire after talking to former Test cricketer David Hookes and Brownlow Medallist Gerard Healy doesn't make much sense either.

He should have asked a few soccer players years ago.

It has been suggested that Wadey should become an ambassador for the sport, especially promoting the game in the schools.

Well, I can tell you now that with all his media commitments this won't happen and like another former Socceroo captain you will only hear and see Paul Wade through his new life as a soccer media personality.

If Wade does manage to get on 'This Is Your Life' I don't expect to be invited as a guest.

I would love to see on that show those six or seven players he kept out of the side for all those years because he didn't retire soon enough.

Well, good luck Paul - and remember you are the luckiest soccer player in the world and please never forget that.

THE VICTORIAN Soccer Federation in a few weeks time will try to sort out the mess that the Federation finds itself in at the moment.

The split between a few officials must be sorted out before the Premier League kicks off mid January.

One thing the VSF must address is the money owed to coaches throughout the leagues.

Nearly 40% of coaches have not been paid by their various clubs.

To pay the players before the coach is a joke, no wonder most clubs in Victoria are in a mess and this must be sorted out before a ball is kicked this season.

DALE WHITE, currently with Bulleen in the Victorian Premier League, is the number one target for Ericsson Cup side Canberra Cosmos.

On his day White is still one of the best forwards in Australia and should move north and start a new career with the Cosmos.

FOOTNOTE: White's possible loan transfer to the Cosmos has been put on ice because of the high loan fee sought by Bulleen.

With Canberra strikers Perinovic, Lemezina and Armstrong all on the injury list the Cosmos were looking for a stop-gap to get them through the next couple of months.

Other Cosmos targets include Geoff Gunning and Phil Stubbins.

A man on a mission

by
Derek Royal

UTS Olympic's dynamic midfielder Walter Ardone is a young man on a mission.

With talent in abundance and pace to burn, the 24 year-old selected for Socceroo duty in Chile earlier this year has his sights set on achieving a dream to play overseas.

"I trialled in Cyprus and Mexico earlier this year," said the laid-back youngster born in Argentina to an Italian father and an Argentinian mother.

"Unfortunately though, the money on offer in Cyprus was less than I expected and I failed to meet the

signing deadline in Mexico."

It was while trialling in Cyprus that the Parramatta Eagles junior was seen by a Mexican scout who was holidaying on the island at the same time.

"He was from the University of Guadalajara club and he liked what he saw so he convinced me to try my luck in Mexico," explained Ardone.

Ardone arrived in central America only to discover that the signing deadline for players had expired but the club still invited him to stay on and to show what he had to offer.

"When I first arrived (as a trialist) people were a bit sceptical and they thought, 'oh yeah, who's this boy from Australia?'

"But once they realised I could play, everything was fine and the boys were really good," he said.

The club was impressed with Ardone's ability and the young Australian enjoyed the experience of playing in another country.

"I trained every day and played in some friendly matches while I was in Mexico and it was great.

"If everything goes well, then maybe I'll be back there at the end of the (Ericsson Cup) season."

Ardone also experienced the delights of becoming a Socceroo for the first time when he was selected for the one-off international against Chile in Santiago

earlier this year.

Following a heavy 3-0 defeat the young man with a South American heritage came away with a healthy respect for the Chileans.

"They weren't physically better than us or stronger than us, they just valued possession more," he said.

"Rather than play the long ball and risk losing possession, the Chileans preferred to play a short passing game even if it meant getting nowhere on the field.

"I was very surprised and it wasn't what I expected of Chile, but playing in front of 45,000 fans in an international was awesome."

Walter Ardone started the current

Ericsson Cup campaign in barnstorming fashion, threading holes through opposing defences with his silky passing and leaving markers in his wake with fancy footwork and blistering pace.

Unfortunately for Ardone and his club, a hamstring strain sustained at training prior to the match against Gippsland Falcons has forced him to spend more time with the physio than with his team-mates.

But once the 24 year-old regains full-fitness, Australian fans can enjoy Walter Ardone's high-tempo playing style for at least another season - before he starts entertaining thoughts of trying his luck overseas once again.

Young Gun

by
Derek Royal

CARLOS Gonzales is a young man with the world at his feet.

The UTS Olympic star who captured the attention of Barcelona, arguably the best supported club in world football, recently returned from a successful trial with Barca's Spanish first division rivals Deportivo La Coruna a more experienced footballer and possessing a more worldly disposition.

"Barcelona are my favourite team and when they showed an interest in me, I couldn't believe it," said Gonzales.

"A friend of my father's showed Barcelona a video tape of some of my games and they were

NUMBER 1 in a series which looks at some of the talented youngsters bursting onto the Ericsson Cup scene.

impressed.

"They requested more tapes and then invited me to trial with them but unfortunately the deal fell through because of a breakdown in communication."

But Barcelona's first division rivals Deportivo La Coruna, currently lying third in the Spanish league, saw the tapes and convinced the youngster to join

them for pre-season training.

"I spent a month with Deportivo La Coruna and while it was intense

and very hard, it was a great experience.

"The club invited me to stay on but I decided that I wanted to get a year of university under my belt and hopefully some first team experience with Olympic."

Gonzales also possesses a burning ambition to play for Australia and his selection in the Young Socceroos team to tour

South Africa this month vindicates his decision to turn down the opportunity of making a name for

himself in his parents' homeland.

"I hope to play well and to impress Raul Blanco," admits the ambitious young striker who almost missed the tour after suffering an injury whilst in camp with the Young Socceroos.

"I made my return in youth league a couple of weeks ago and David Ratcliffe gave me a run (10 minutes) in the first

team against Gippsland and I'm feeling okay," he said.

Gonzales represented Australian Schoolboys

on their unbeaten tour of South-East Asia in January and was a member of Nick Theodorakopoulos's New South Wales Under 20s who toured South Korea in August, so the teenager boasts a wealth of representative experience that should stand him in good stead for the future.

As a knobbly-kneed 14 year-old, Gonzales also toured South America with the Australian Indoor Soccer team and he nominates his parents as being the biggest

influence on his career.

"They've always been there in good times and bad," he stresses.

"Since I started playing soccer as a 10 year-old, they've been terrific and my dad has always advised me and helped me to make decisions."

Studying for a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Western Sydney, Gonzales is a young man with his feet firmly planted on the ground.

"I'm majoring in Land Economics so hopefully I'll eventually get a job in that particular field," he says.

But until the young man fulfils his footballing ambitions there's no doubt that a career in land economics will probably take a back seat ... just for now.



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PHOTOGRAPHS
BY DEREK ROYAL



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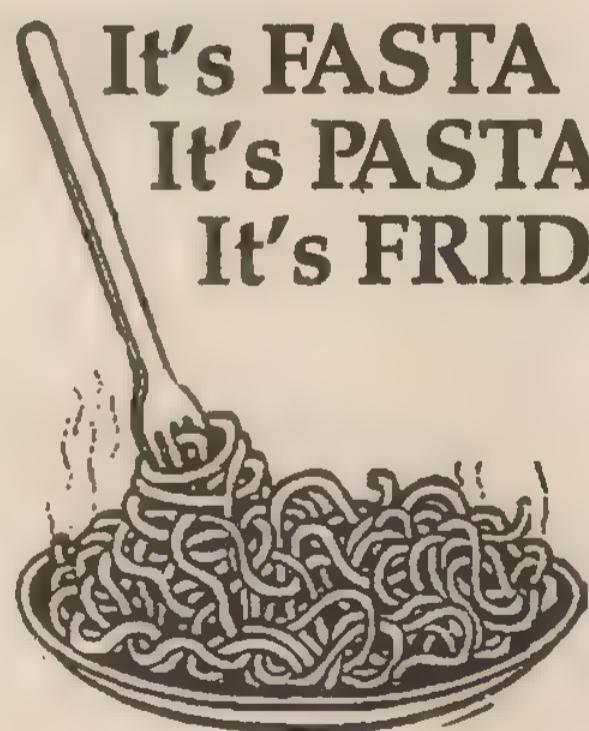
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Appeal for life

OLYMPIC fans have yet to see the best of Abbas Saad as the former Singapore legend continues his fight back to full match fitness after having his *FIFA sine die* ban recently quashed.

"He's a quality player," says UTS coach Dave Ratcliffe.

Now there is a real fight on for places at Belmore this season.

Saad had a successful appeal against the severity of his sentence upheld after his lawyer, former ASF Chairman John Constantine, presented his case to the world governing body.



20

"WE'VE HAD a very good start to the season," agreed Sydney United midfield ace Robbie Enes.

"We're taking our chances now but the big difference between this and last season is that last season those balls just wouldn't have gone in."

"That's really the difference - this year we're taking our chances."

Enes had just come off a gruelling schedule

after his trip to Tahiti with the Socceroos and then the return match in Canberra before squaring up to

Melbourne Knights for a mid-week fixture - and then UTS Olympic last Sunday.

"That was hard," he said of the Socceroo trip, "and then to back that up with the game against Marconi and a midweek clash against Knights."

"But that winning feeling is a good one and hopefully it will just keep going - it's great to keep winning all the time."

The newly called-up Socceroo is playing down his current form, scoffing at suggestions that the Marconi match was his best since

joining Sydney United. "I had a good game," he said, "but wouldn't say it was my best."

"The team is playing well and the new players have fitted in very well."

"Kresimir Marusic is just different class, he was just the sort of player we needed at this club."

"And Cvetko has come on twice now and scored goals."

"He is a quality striker and I've no doubts that when he is fully fit that he will be playing from the start."

"Our average now is three goals a game."

"We've played four games and scored three goals every time."

"You can't get the smile of our coach's face - you should see him."

No doubt Branko Culina will want to play that one down, but the United midfield is definitely on form.

Another pleasing aspect of the team's performance is the amount of players getting into scoring positions in the opposition box.

Against Knights the norm was five or six players pushing into the final third at any time, giving a variety of options.

That is obviously another of the ingredients going into the United success mix to date and Robbie Enes is just happy to be part of it.

The quiet determination shown by Enes has been a hallmark of a player who Branko Culina regarded as his major signing last season.

His performances in midfield have also caught the eye of Sydney's soccer press with rave reviews on television being par for the course.

That earned the former Melburnian a



surprise call-up into the Socceroo squad - but he was delighted to take his chance when it came.

"It was a big shock," he admitted of his call-up notice.

"Damian Mori was supposed to come into the squad but called off and I got his place - but it was a big shock to me."

"Maybe it helped me that Raul Blanco came in as coach."

"It was a great experience - even though it rained in Tahiti for four days straight."

Robbie Enes wasn't alone on national team

duty, though, being kept company by his two Sydney United buddies, Zeljko Kalac and Tony Popovic.

'Spider' has earned himself a reputation with the Socceroos as something of a showman - on and off the park as Enes quickly found out.

"He's different," laughs the Socceroo rookie.

"All you can do is watch him gamble, watch him talk - and that's it!"

"He's so loud, it's unbelievable - but he is very cocky."

"Spider is just so confident."

"All the boys get on really well with him."

Enes isn't fooling himself into thinking that he is now a permanent fixture in a green and gold squad, however, and realises that his was an opportunity to gain experience at the top level.

But he still has an ambition to make his mark permanently and realises that to do that he has to perform well for Sydney United - week in and week out.

And that is good news for United fans.

Mike Komadina & Bruce Campbell

Aiming to make his mark with United

PLAY IT SAFE - A BRIEF HISTORY

Dec 1994 - Project launched at Marconi Stadium before 13,000 people.
1995 - Distribution of stickers and posters through schools and soccer clinics in NSW.
Dec 1995 - Celebrity Soccer Game - before Marconi vs UTS Olympic - crowd 17,000 people.
1996 - Video produced on project for use in soccer clinics and schools.
Nov/Dec 1996 - Look out for the Celebrity Soccer Match during AIDS Awareness Week (26 Nov - 1st Dec)!

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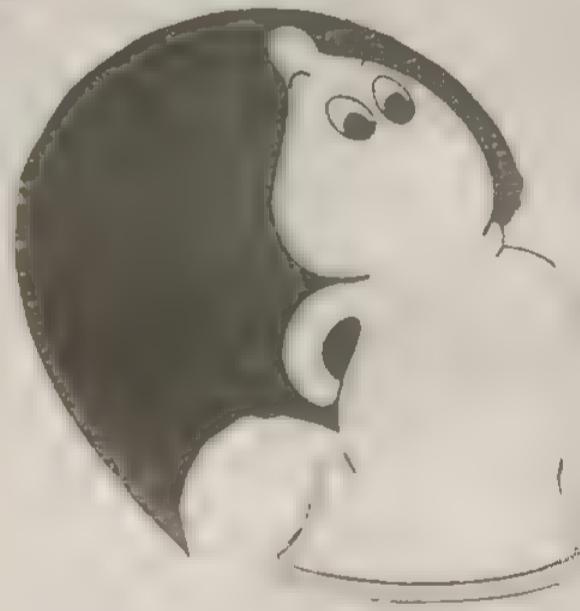
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BRIDGETTE ADAMS from Channel 7's **THE GREAT OUTDOORS** at the 1995 Celebrity Match at Leichhardt Oval



Cheetah, Flame and Hammer from Channel 7's **THE GLADIATORS** at the 1995 Celebrity Match at Leichhardt Oval

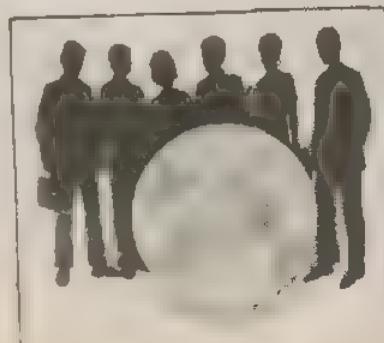


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Fitness is his main target

MARIO JERMEM was one player looking for a "fair go" in the Sydney United first team this season - but things just haven't gone as the doctor would order.

After a sensational spell at Wollongong Wolves at the end of last season, Jermen came back to United.

Named in the off-season tour party to Croatia - the young striker looked to be a fair chance of grabbing a regular first team berth, but that hasn't happened, with a crippling knee injury instead putting paid to his hopes and aspirations.

"The day before we were due to fly out to Croatia," he says, "we had a training session at the Croatian Sports Centre.

"I went down on my

knee and twisted it and after visiting a specialist I was told that I needed a knee re-construction.

"Club president Ivan Simic offered me the chance to still go on the tour but I wanted to get the operation over and done just as soon as I could."

Now it will not be until next month that Jermen starts to train at all.

After that he estimates another month or two to get his strength and fitness back and by then he could be challenging for that first team spot.

You might be forgiven for thinking that he is casting hindsight about leaving Brandon Park but despite his injury he has no regrets at all about coming back to Sydney United.

"I got on well with the

players at Wollongong," he says.

"The club was good to me and I enjoyed my time there but I had a long talk with Branko Culina and I decided to come back.

"But now I could well miss most of the season. Hopefully I'll be fully fit by the time the Top Six comes around so I could well figure in that."

At this stage the young forward doesn't consider a re-appearance in winter football likely, preferring instead to get his body back to fitness with his next major target being the 1997/98 season.

"I hope to be fully fit for that," he says.

"That is my target so I'll probably just rest during the winter and concentrate on my own fitness."



GLENN GWYNNE in action at Suncorp Stadium - just one of the many success stories for Brisbane Strikers rookie coach Frank Farina

Institute boost for youth soccer

THE BEST young players in New South Wales are set to reap the rewards after the NSW Institute of Sport soccer programme kicked off recently.

Soccer is one of 25 sports chosen to head up the Institute programme with its first goal to provide top class athletes for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

The soccer programme will be based at Soccer NSW's Valentine Park HQ and is a continuation of the Intensive Training

Centres run by Soccer NSW in previous years.

The NSW Institute of Sport started earlier at the Homebush State Sports Centre and will provide a wide range of benefits for those athletes who are lucky enough to be included in their individual sports programmes.

The programme will be managed by David Lee while Casey de Bruin will coach the NSW Institute side that is competing in the National Youth League competition. Connie Selby heads the

women's programme.

The NSW Institute of Sport is funded by the State Government with \$5million set aside to run the programme.

"The players not only get the benefits of top class coaching but will receive expert tuition on how to deal with other aspects of sport," said Lee.

"They'll be taught how to find that right balance between their sport and other matters such as school or work, how to deal with contracts, speaking and personal presentation,

career planning and lifestyle management.

"However, these are only a small proportion of what they have to offer to players."

De Bruin added: "From my perspective as coach we also get full use of the NSWIS weight rooms, testing and training facilities.

"We will obviously use Valentine Park for most of our training but Homebush gives us the extra facilities which are required to make players even better."

The soccer programme is based on a four year plan with the major objective to provide players for the 1999 Youth team and 2000 Olympics.

Lee is targeting the inclusion of eight players for the 2000 Olympic side.

WRITERS

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SCOTLAND KEEPER TO BE SHOWN THE DOOR

RUMOURS are rife in Glasgow that Andy Goram has played his last game for Glasgow Rangers.

Already reeling from Paul Gascoigne's admission that he beat up his wife Sheryl in the exclusive Gleneagles Hotel, the Scottish champions are now the victim of a

whispering campaign which alleges that there was a dressing room punch up between Scotland goalie Andy Goram and Danish international Brian Laudrup.

Inside Soccer's man in Glasgow, Alex Cameron said over the telephone: "Yes, the rumours are certainly

doing the rounds of Glasgow's pubs that Andy Goram and Brian Laudrup had a punch up, but I stress that it is only a rumour, and anybody connected officially with Ibrox is denying that anything happened.

"However, the rumour goes that after Brian Laudrup missed a retaken penalty against Goram's old



Andy Goram. Did he punch Brian Laudrup?

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DALGLISH SET TO SIGN FOR RANGERS

KENNY DALGLISH, the former Blackburn and Liverpool manager who spent ten years as a Celtic player at Parkhead, is set to rock British football by joining the backroom staff at Glasgow Rangers.

Rangers millionaire owner David Murray is reported to have offered Dalglish an as yet unspecified role at Ibrox, but it is believed to be connected with the recruitment of European talent which would make Rangers a force in the Champions League.

Rangers manager Walter Smith is known to be under pressure because of Rangers' inept performance in European competition, where they have lost every game in this season's Champions League.

The arrival at Ibrox of 'King Kenny' can only increase the pressure on the embattled Smith, and should Rangers falter along the way to their ninth consecutive Scottish title, then a replacement manager would not be too hard to predict.

Across the city at Parkhead, although the fans are calling Dalglish's likely signing treachery, Celtic chairman Fergus McCann is playing down such statements.

Said McCann: "I would say we wish Kenny Dalglish, who was a great player for Celtic, all the best in the future, whatever he decides to do, but it really is none of our concern if he wants to speak to Rangers about joining them."

Dalglish spent 10 years with Celtic, making over 300 appearances and winning every domestic honour before moving to Liverpool in 1977.

Although a Celtic legend, Dalglish has always openly admitted that as a youth he was brought up only a stone's throw away from Ibrox and supported Rangers as a boy.

ub Hibs, which resulted in Rangers' first defeat of the season, that words were exchanged in the Easter Road dressing room immediately after the match and Andy allegedly lunged at Laudrup.

"Consequently, so the story goes, Brian Laudrup told Walter Smith that he would never play in the same team as Goram again, and if he was forced to, then he would ask for a transfer.

"As I say, it is only a rumour, but it is interesting to note that Goram has not played for Rangers since the Hibs game, being officially on the injured list.

"Once again I stress that there has been no official confirmation that any incident took place in the Rangers dressing room after the Hibs match, but there are certainly many people to whom I have spoken who claim to have inside information about the alleged incident.

"I guess time will tell if it is fact or if it is fiction, but Rangers manager Walter Smith can certainly do without any more discipline problems to deal with this season."

Collymore turns his back on Liverpool

LIVERPOOL have fined striker Stan Collymore \$45,000 after he refused to play in a reserve game.

Collymore is unhappy at Liverpool, and he will be allowed to leave Anfield if a suitable offer comes along.

Manager Roy Evans said in a prepared statement: "Stan Collymore was selected to play in the reserves at Tranmere but said at lunchtime on the day of the game that he didn't want to play.

"He failed to report for the game and the club will take the appropriate action.

"It's an internal matter which will be dealt with but obviously there will be a punishment which will be done immediately.

"I've spoken to him and informed him what we are going to do."

It appears now that it is only a matter of time before the former Nottingham Forest striker is on his way from Merseyside, with Aston Villa probably being his next destination.

Waiting for the phone to ring

S O C C E R O O
goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer is an unlikely victim of Steve Coppell's resignation as manager of Manchester City (see story on separate page).

As exclusively revealed in the last edition of *Inside Soccer*, Schwarzer was at Maine Road for a week on trial and impressed Coppell so much that he was about to make a bid for him until his resignation.

Mark played in a closed door game and trained with the first team squad before playing in a reserve match against Bradford City.

Said Mark: "I went over there twice.

"I played and trained pretty well and the last word I heard before departing for Germany was that they were going to try and buy me for the sum of £250,000.

"Unfortunately, as you probably already know, Steve Coppell, the manager of Manchester City resigned due to health reasons.

"The rumour is that assistant manager Phil Neal will take over but until the whole situation is sorted out my transfer is on hold, and



hopefully I should know a bit more in a couple of days.

"Alex Stepney, the ex-Manchester United

goalkeeper is the

goalkeeping coach at

City and it seemed

that he was quite

impressed with my

performances too.

"I guess now all I can do is wait and see what develops."

Schwarzer also got a call-up to the Socceroo

squad after a story

about him being in no-

man's land appeared in

Australasia's top soccer

publication.

Fred Legget

Inside Soccer
the ONLY paper which
carries the BIG stories
in soccer

FIFA SAY NO TO TIME OUT



Cruyff: on FIFA task force

TASK FORCE 2000, a committee set up by FIFA to look into rule changes which might benefit the game, met in Zurich recently to discuss several suggested law changes.

With several high profile names on the committee such as, Johann Cruyff, Michel Platini, Franz Beckenbauer, Marco Van Basten and A.C. Milan coach Oscar Tabarez, the committee is considered to be very influential.

However, they remained divided on the merits of the concept of the 'golden goal' in deciding drawn matches, with Johann Cruyff in favour of a US-style shoot out, and FIFA Referees

Committee Chairman David Will, arguing the case for the first goal in extra time to count double if both teams score the same number of goals in extra time.

Both Michel Platini and Franz Beckenbauer felt the golden goal should be given another chance while the journalists' representative pleaded for matches to be decided in 90 minutes by the counting of the number of corner kicks won by each side.

The committee did manage to agree on a couple of other things though, and there was a universal thumbs down for the concept of time out during matches, and a majority of participants, notably Johann Cruyff, were steadfastly against replacing the throw in with a kick in as they felt it would lead to a deterioration in the quality of play.

ZOLA JOINS GULLIT'S FOREIGN LEGION

Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit has signed Italian striker Gianfranco Zola for \$10 million from Serie A side Parma. The 30-year-old Italian striker has signed a three year deal and is believed to be picking up in the region of \$50,000 a week in wages.

Chelsea beat off the attention of rivals Manchester United, Tottenham and Newcastle to sign the Sardinian striker, who will now team up with fellow Italians Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo at Stamford Bridge.

Zola had become unhappy at Parma after being forced to play in a more defensive role.

Kearton On The Move

AUSSIE-born goalkeeper Jason Kearton has moved on from Everton after being unable to dis-lodge veteran Welsh international Neville Southall from the regular line-up.

Kearton has joined Crewe, the side which he recently joined on loan.

The former Queenslander made just seven first team appearances with Everton although he hit the soccer record books when he made his debut against an Aston Villa side which also featured the debut of Mark Bosnich.

Steve Coppell: 33 and OUT!

STEVE Coppell has resigned as manager of Manchester City after only 33 days in charge.

Quoting "medical advice" as the reason for his resignation, Coppell has thrown struggling Manchester City into chaos.

When Coppell took over from previous manager Alan Ball, he was never the first choice, with the position having been publicly offered to George Graham and Dave Bassett, and others having been allegedly approached in a more private manner.

Graham and Bassett obviously knew more than Coppell did, but even before he signed

the contract it was rumoured that City, who suffer by comparison with their famous neighbours United, were nearly a staggering forty million dollars in debt.

In the end it was all too much for the former Manchester United winger who retired from playing through injury with 42 England caps to his name.

At a sombre press conference Coppell said: "When I was given the job, I was proud, delighted and excited.

"I am not ashamed to admit that for some time I have suffered from the huge pressure that I have put upon myself and since my appointment this has completely overwhelmed me to such an extent that I cannot function in the job in the way that I would like to.

"As this situation is affecting my well being, I have asked Francis Lee to relieve me of my obligation to manage the club on medical advice.

"I am therefore

resigning for personal reasons.

"I am extremely embarrassed by this situation and would like to apologise to Francis Lee and his board, who have done everything in their power to help me."

After reading from a prepared statement Coppell refused to answer questions and left for a short holiday, leaving an embarrassed and disappointed chairman Francis Lee to reflect: "Some people can cope and some can't."

"It is another sad day for Manchester City."

Now there must be question marks over not only the future of chairman Francis Lee, but the direction the club itself will take in an effort to reduce their staggering debt and hopefully become a major force in English football once again.



Suchoparek starring for the Czech Republic in the final of Euro '96. Now that Germany have pulled out of the Confederations Cup next December the Aussies may meet up with the brilliant runners-up.

SEASON TICKET LEAGUE

...and the most successful clubs in the country should expect to sell the most tickets, but no doubt there will be a lot of people surprised that mighty Manchester United are outsold by the two Glasgow clubs.
The top of the table looks like this:
Celtic 38,000
Rangers 37,000
Manchester Utd 35,000
Newcastle Utd 33,000
Middlesbrough 26,000
Liverpool 25,000
Everton 23,000
Arsenal 18,000
Leeds 18,000
Sunderland 17,000
Nottingham Forest 16,500
Aston Villa 16,000



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Play it again, Jimmy

FIFA
decision angers
Scots

FIFA have ruled that Scotland must face Estonia again in the World Cup, after having provisionally awarded the tie to Scotland 3-0 when Estonia failed to turn up for the game which was scheduled on October 9.

The match that never was saw Scotland take the field and kick off in Tallinn, Estonia, with no opposition in sight after the home side refused to comply with a FIFA order to bring forward the kick off time by 3 hours due to unsatisfactory floodlights.

Had the 3-0 scoreline stood, Scotland would have been above Sweden in their group, prior to the two sides clashing at Ibrox last weekend.

While Estonia, and Scotland's main rival in their qualifying group Sweden, are delighted, the Scottish press are, somewhat predictably, up in arms.

Sections of the media are asking why Scotland's representative, David Will, was not allowed to participate in the committee meeting that reversed the original ruling, while Swedish representative Lennart Johanssen, who is also FIFA's vice-president was allowed to chair the meeting.

Murmurings about conflict of interest are echoing from the highlands to the English border, especially in light of

Johanssen's previous statement that he did not feel that Scotland should be awarded three points for a match they never played.

Scottish secretary Jim Farry chose his words carefully at a press conference when he said: "Everyone knows that football is a game of opinions, but those who hold high office are used to keeping those opinions to themselves.

"If an official has been allowed to contribute to a meeting in which he has a vested interest, it is perhaps time for a review of protocol at FIFA."

Scotland skipper Garry McAllister was hit by a double blow as a result of FIFA's ruling as he was serving a suspension during the Estonia game, but as the game has been scrubbed from the records, it meant that he had to miss the crucial game against the Swedes instead.

Said the Scottish skipper on the eve of the Scotland versus Sweden clash at Ibrox:

"It is a big blow to miss out on this game in particular.

"Sweden are our main rivals and whoever finishes above them in Group 4 will qualify for the World Cup finals.

"I am absolutely certain of that.

"As far as the FIFA ruling goes, well I think the players were prepared for anything really.

"All the politics and committee meetings that go on are really out of our control, so there



isn't much point in complaining about it.

"What I do know though, is that what has happened concerning the replay with Estonia will bring the Scotland squad closer together, and make us even more determined to qualify for France."

FIFA's determination that the match should be replayed in Tallinn before March 1997 has already been decried, given that football in that part of the world is usually in the middle of its winter shutdown.

When the match is eventually staged, it is more likely that it will be played in Cyprus, Greece or Italy.

Fred Legget

FOOTNOTE:
Scotland beat Sweden 1-0 in their World Cup match.

WEAH WINS FIFA FAIR PLAY AWARD

George Weah has been named the winner of the FIFA Fair play Award for 1996.

FIFA decided to award the annual prize to the Liberian and AC Milan striker for his personal contribution which made possible his national team's participation in their World Cup qualifying matches at a time when his country was disturbed by civil war. The Committee Chairman, Sweden's Lennart Johansson said: "We had a number of very good proposals for the winner of this award, but we chose George Weah not only because of the generosity of his gesture demonstrating his true love for the game, but also because of his high profile and popularity helps project the message of Fair Play to the widest possible public." The award to Weah consists of a trophy and a cheque for 10,000 Swiss Francs, which he will donate to a charity of his choice.

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And it's a grand old team to see

SCOTLAND'S Old Firm support are renowned for the lengths to which they will go to see their heroes in action, but a group of New Zealand Celtic supporters have added to the legend!

Bill Clarke, an Auckland based Celtic supporter told *Inside Soccer*, how a group of Celtic fanatics are flying over to Australia, just to watch their favourites on television!

"There is no live television coverage of the Celtic v Rangers games here in New Zealand, as there is in Australia, so a group of Celtic supporters are flying over to Melbourne to watch the match on television."

"Malcolm Slater and George Smith from the Auckland Celtic Supporters Club have organised it all, and about eight members of the club are flying out on the Wednesday before the game, where we will team up with the Melbourne Celtic Supporters Club to watch the match."

"It's the first time they've organised anything like this and it's costing the guys \$370 each for their airfares alone."

"Hopefully, the result will make it all worthwhile."

Fred Legget

No girls, please - I'm a football player

WHILE everyone has heard of Marconi's new signings, Socceroo Craig Foster and former Sydney United striker Sean Babic, a less familiar name to look out for in the future is Andy Ravanello.

Andrew, at 23 years of age, has this season achieved his ambition by playing first grade for Marconi.

"Ever since I was a kid I've always had a dream of playing for Marconi," said Ravanello.

Now that he has made it to the top he plans to stay there for a long, long time.

"Well, I'm 23 now and I'd like to keep playing competitively for at least another 10 - 12 years," he added.

"If I can keep myself fit and motivated there is no reason why I can't."

Born in Canberra, Ravanello first played soccer with his school, St Edmunds College, which is a bastion of rugby in the ACT.

Later he joined his first senior club, Weston Creek and it was there that he began to catch the eye of other clubs.

The 172cm player with the flaming red hair, lightning speed and power shot was signed by form NSW Super League club, Canberra Deakin.

Later he transferred to Port Kembla where his coach, former Socceroo Adrian Alston, recommended him to Marconi.

In 1995 he signed a two year contract with the west Sydney club and played youth grade under coach Lee Sterrey.

Last season he was one of that side's most consistent players as the youth team went on to become Australian champions.

"Andrew was very good, very disciplined and always put in 100%," said Sterrey.

"He played very strongly for us last year and scored a lot of crucial goals. He deserves his chance in first grade."

And Ravanello is going all out to take advantage of his opportunity to cement a regular spot in coach Manfred Schaefer's first grade Marconi side.

To do that he has made several major sacrifices.

He has become a full time player, training twice a day.

Ravanello is also conscious of his diet - and has even said no to a girlfriend in order to concentrate on soccer.

Several major injuries, including a stress fracture in his spine and a broken knee cap, have only served to strengthen Andy Ravanello's resolve to fulfil his ambition.

by Nick Bilbija

Aussie HOT SHOTS



5	David ZDRILIC (Sydney United)	Brad MALONEY (Marconi Fairfield)
4	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers) Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (Perth Glory) Matt HORSLEY (Wollongong City) Norman TOME (UTS Olympic) Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)	Andrew MARTH (Melbourne Knights) Ante MILICIC (Sydney United) Scott MILLER (Perth Glory) Ante MORIC (Sydney United) Gareth NAVEN (Perth Glory) Nick ORLIC (South Melbourne) Nick PALAMARAS (Gippsland) Jamie PERIN (West Adelaide) Marko PERINOVIC (Canberra) Gary PHILLIPS (Brisbane Strikers) Tom PONDELJAK (Knights) Robert SLAGER (West Adelaide) George SORRAS (UTS Olympic) Glenn SPROD (Newcastle Breakers) Glenn THOMAS (Newcastle Breakers) Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic) Paul TRIMBOLI (South Melbourne) Mark WILSON (Newcastle Breakers) Dale WINGELL (Perth Glory) Clayton ZANE (Newcastle Breakers) Vlado ZORIC (Marconi Fairfield)
3	Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers) Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)	
2	Walter ARDONE (UTS Olympic) Damir CVETKO (Sydney United) Alex DURIC (Gippsland Falcons) Norman KELLY (Canberra Cosmos) Tony POPOVIC (Sydney United) Glenn SPROD (Newcastle Breakers) Paul STRUDWICK (Perth Glory) Kimon TALIADOROS (Collingwood) Hamilton THORP (West Adelaide) Kasey WEHRMAN (Brisbane Strikers)	
1	Mark BABIC (Sydney United) Sean BABIC (Marconi Fairfield) Matt BINGLEY (Marconi) Andrew BORGHETTO (West Adelaide) Con BOUTSIANIS (Collingwood) Peter BULJAN (Canberra Cosmos) Ricky CERRACHIO (Collingwood) Paul DEE (Canberra Cosmos) Craig FOSTER (Marconi Fairfield) Troy HALPIN (Newcastle Breakers) Neil HARLOCK (Wollongong City) Andy HARPER (Marconi Fairfield) Aaron HOLST (Marconi Fairfield) Alan HUNTER (Brisbane Strikers) Nikolce JOSEVSKI (Wollongong) Wayne KNIPE (Brisbane Strikers) John KOCH (Canberra Cosmos) Velimir KUPRESAK (Sydney United) Ice KUTLESOVSKI (Knights) Alan MCKENZIE (Perth Glory) Brian McNICHOL (Collingwood) Paul McVITTIE (Perth Glory)	

MOST GOALS IN A SINGLE MATCH

4 Jason Bennet (Newcastle) v West Adelaide, Round 1

HAT TRICK MEN

Rod Brown (Brisbane Strikers)

v Newcastle Breakers, Round 1

MOST SUCCESSIVE GAMES WITHOUT A WIN

6 Canberra Cosmos: Rounds 1-5 (+R19)

MOST SUCCESSIVE GAMES WITHOUT DEFEAT

5 Brisbane Strikers: Rounds 1-5

Sydney United: Rounds 1-5

4 Collingwood Warriors: Rounds 1-5 (-R3)

ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 6

Saturday 16 November

Marconi-Fairfield v Brisbane Strikers
Perth Glory v Gippsland Falcons
Canberra Cosmos v Collingwood

Sunday

South Melbourne v Newcastle Breakers
Melbourne Knights v Wollongong City
UTS Olympic v Adelaide City
West Adelaide v Sydney United

Marconi Stadium 7.00pm
Perth Oval 4.00pm
Bruce Stadium 7.00pm

Lakeside Stadium 6.00pm
Knights Park 6.00pm
Belmore Sports Ground 6.30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.30pm

ERICSSON CUP - ROUND 7

Friday 22 November

Newcastle Breakers v Collingwood

Breaker Stadium 7.30pm

Saturday 23 November

Brisbane Strikers v UTS Olympic
Gippsland Falcons v Canberra Cosmos
Sydney United v Perth Glory
Adelaide City v West Adelaide
South Melbourne v Melbourne Knights
Wollongong City v Marconi Fairfield

Suncorp Stadium 7.00pm
Falcons Park 7.30pm
Sydney United Sports 6.30pm
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.30pm
Lakeside Stadium 6.00pm
Brandon Park 6.00pm

ALL FIXTURES ARE correct at time of going to print. Watch daily press for late changes.

SCORELINE

INTERNATIONALS

OCEANIA CUP
SECOND LEG
Friday 1 November
 Australia 5 Tahiti 0
 Trajanovski 22, 37, 54
 Hooker 31
 Trimboli 31
 Att: 9,421 Referee: I Shah (Fiji)
 Venue: Bruce Stadium, Canberra

UNDER 20 FRIENDLIES
 South Africa 0 Australia 2

South Africa 1 Australia 1
 Att: 75,000
 Venue:

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 19 (re-scheduled match)
Friday 1 November
 Canberra Cosmos 1 Newcastle Breakers 1
 Dee 89 Zanc 74
 Att: 9,421# * Referee: M Breeze
 Venue: Bruce Stadium
 * Double header with Australia v Tahiti

ROUND 4
Saturday 2 November
 Marconi Fairfield 0 Sydney United 3
 Zdrilic 49
 Moric 51
 Cvetko 84
 Att: 8,952 Referee: E Lennic
 Venue: Marconi Stadium

Sunday 3 November
 South Melbourne 1 Brisbane Strikers 2
 Odic 24 Hunter 4 – pen
 Wehrman 66
 Att: 5,452 Referee: B Hugo
 Venue: Lakeside Stadium

Melbourne Knights 0 Adelaide City 0
 Att: 3,455 Referee: E Brazzale
 Venue: Knights Park

Wollongong City 0 Newcastle Breakers 0
 Att: 3,455 Referee: J Markovski
 Venue: Brandon Park

UTS Olympic 3 Gippsland Falcons 0
 Trajanovski 47
 Tome 55, 57
 Att: 7,128 Referee: M Breeze
 Venue: Belmore Sports Ground

West Adelaide 1 Collingwood W'riors 2
 Slager 21 Cerrachio 24, 68
 Att: 5,611 Referee: G Connolly
 Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Perth Glory 6 Canberra Cosmos 0
 McVittie 19
 Despotovski 31, 87
 Wingell 32
 G Naven 67
 Miller 80
 Att: 8,053 Referee: B Panella
 Venue: Perth Oval

ROUND 3 (re-scheduled)
Wednesday 6 November
 Sydney United 3 Melbourne Knights 1
 Kupresak 58 Kutlesovski 52
 Zdrilic 64
 Cvetko 93
 Att: 3,644 Referee: B Hugo
 Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre

ROUND 5
Friday 8 November
 Wollongong City 1 South Melbourne 1

Harlock 57 Trimboli 16
 Att: 2,905 Referee: C Diomis
 Venue: Brandon Park

Newcastle Breakers 2 Canberra Cosmos 2
 Halpin 33 Buljan 18
 Sprod 46 Koch 68
 Att: 3,107 Referee: D Crawford
 Venue: Breakers Stadium

Saturday 9 November
 Brisbane Strikers 2 Melbourne Knights 1
 Farina 28 Pondeljak 40
 Knipe 86
 Att: 5,075 Referee: E Lennic
 Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Gippsland Falcons 1 West Adelaide 2
 Palamaras 89 Tsekini 28, 59
 Att: 2,480 Referee: M Shield
 Venue: Falcons Park

Sunday 10 November
 Adelaide City 0 Marconi Fairfield 1
 Att: 4,112 Referee: B Hugo
 Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Collingwood 0 Perth Glory 0
 Att: 5,504 Referee: W Dade
 Venue: Victoria Park

Sydney United 2 UTS Olympic 1
 Popovic 60, 77 – pens Sorras 65
 Att: 11,381# Referee: S Micallef
 Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

NORTHERN DIVISION
ROUND 5
 Newcastle 3 ACT Academy 0
 Queensland Acad 3 Sydney United Colts 0
 Sydney United 1 UTS Olympic 1
 NSWIS 5 Olympic Colts 0
 AIS v Marconi Fairfield PP

Wollongong City: bye
 Marconi Colts: bye

SOUTHERN DIVISION

ROUND 5
THE CROWDS
 Biggest 96/97 Attendance: Round 1 – 12,561*
 Collingwood v Melbourne Knights
 * Estimated crowd 15,000 – gates opened before kick off because of congestion outside ground.

AGGREGATE CROWDS BY ROUND

ROUND 1 41,544
ROUND 2 39,550
ROUND 3 15,889 (5 matches)
ROUND 4 42,135
ROUND 5 34,565
ROUND 19 9,421 (1 match only)

AVERAGE MATCH ATTENDANCE:
 5,385
 N.B. figures are Ericsson Cup official releases.
TOTAL: 183,104

SEASONAL RECORDS

Adelaide City	3,719	v Brisbane Strikers	Round 1
Brisbane Strikers	5,075	v Melbourne Knights	Round 5
Canberra Cosmos	9,421#	v Newcastle Breakers	Round 4
Collingwood Warriors	12,561#	v Melbourne Knights	Round 1
Gippsland Falcons	3,235	v South Melbourne	Round 1
Marconi Fairfield	8,952	v Sydney United	Round 4
Melbourne Knights	3,760	v Gippsland Falcons	Round 1
Newcastle Breakers	4,813	v West Adelaide	Round 1
Perth Glory	9,639#	v UTS Olympic	Round 1
South Melbourne	8,668	v Sydney United	Round 2
Sydney United	11,381#	v UTS Olympic	Round 5
UTS Olympic	7,428	v Canberra Cosmos	Round 2
West Adelaide	5,611	v Collingwood Warriors	Round 4
Wollongong City	5,348	v Adelaide City	Round 2

= ALL-TIME club record

Gippsland Falcons 6 Heidelberg United 1
 Altona Magic 1 Thomastown 1
 VIS 1 Melbourne Knights 1
 Green Gully 1 South Melbourne 7
 Collingwood 1 Sunshine 3
 Knights Colts 5 Box Hill 1
 Springvale City 0 Beatcraig 0

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

ROUND 3
 Cumberland United 3 SASI 5
 Blue Eagles 3 Para Hills 1
 Woodville City 0 West Adelaide 1
 Modbury 0 Adelaide City 1

NEW ZEALAND

ROUND 2
 Miramar Rangers 2 Waitakere City 0
 Jackson 70 Fashanu 19

Nelson Suburbs 0 Central United 4
 Harper 7 Mack 16, 53
 Referee: B Hugo Hawke 82
 o.g. 85

Napier City Rovers 1 Melville United 1
 Rennie 68 Steff 51
 Melville won on penalties

North Shore United 1 Wellington United 1
 Lamb 13 Whittington 35
 North Shore won on penalties

Mt Maunganui 0 Woolston 1
 o.g. 36

LEADING GOALSCORERS
 2 Mark Fletcher (Napier City)
 Steve Nickson (North Shore United)
 Justin Fashanu (Miramar Rangers)
 Stephen Mack (Central United)

ERICSSON CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	5	4	1	0	14	6	13
Brisbane Strikers	5	4	1	0	12	4	13
UTS Olympic	4	3	0	1	9	3	9
West Adelaide	5	3	0	2	10	11	9
Collingwood Warriors	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Marconi Fairfield	5	2	2	1	7	8	8
Perth Glory	5	2	1	2	11	8	7
Wollongong City	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Newcastle Breakers	6	1	3	2	11	13	6
Melbourne Knights	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Adelaide City	4	0	2	2	0	2	2
South Melbourne	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
Gippsland Falcons	5	0	2	3	3	8	2
Canberra Cosmos	6	0	2	4	6	16	2

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
UTS Olympic	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
AIS	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Newcastle Breakers	4	3	0	1	10	6	9
Marconi Fairfield	4	3	0	1	4	2	9
Sydney United	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Queensland Acad, NSWIS	4	2	0	2	8	5	6
Wollongong City	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
Marconi Colts	4	1	0	3	6	7	3
Olympic Colts	3	1	0	2	3	9	3
ACT Academy	4	0	0	4	1	10	0
Sydney United Colts	5	0	0	5	1	11	0

VICTORIAN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Sunshine	5	5	0	0	10	3	15
VIS	5	4	1	0	12	2	13
South Melbourne	5	4	0	1	22	6	12
Gippsland Falcons	5	3	0	2	15	10	9
Knights Colts	5	3	0	2	12	8	9
Melbourne Knights	5	2	2	1	13	8	8
Green Gully	5	2	0	3	8	14	6
Collingwood Warriors	4	1	2	1	9	9	5
Bentleigh	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Springvale City	5	1	1	3	5	15	4
Thomastown	4	1	0	3	8	9	3
Altona Magic	5	1	0	4	5	19	3
Heidelberg United	5	0	2	3	7	15	2
Box Hill	4	0	1	3	4	12	1

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
SASI	3	2	1	0	13	5	7
Adelaide City	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
West Adelaide	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Adelaide Blue Eagles	3	2					

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